

10/085,792

MS188865.01/MSFTP305US

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. A version of all pending claims is found at pages 5-10. The specification has been amended herein to cure minor informalities. Claims 2, 3, 18 and 30-31 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 4, 6-10, 16, 19-20, 28-29 and 32-33 have been amended herein.

Applicants' representative notes with appreciation the indication that claims 3-11, 15, 18-21, 27 and 31-37 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and that independent claims 1, 16, 28 and 29 would be in condition for allowance if the limitations of the allowable claims were incorporated therein. To this end, the independent claims have been amended to comport with the Examiner's indication, and as such these claims (and those that depend there from) are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

In addition, it should be noted that applicants' representative intends to file a continuation application to pursue the original and/or rejected claims.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 12-14, 16, 22-26 and 28-29 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 12-14, 16, 22-26 and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Aronson *et al.* (US 6,128,673). It is respectfully requested that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reason. It is believed that the rejection is moot in view of the amendments made to independent claims 1, 16 and 28-29 to incorporate limitations contained in dependent claims 2, 3, 18 and 30-31 that the Examiner indicates as being allowable. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 2, 17 and 30 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2, 17 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aronson *et al.* (US 6,128,673) in view of Arato *et al.* (US 6,535,522 B1). It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

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Claim 2 has been cancelled herein, and claims 17 and 30 depend from independent claims 16 and 29 respectively, which, as stated above, are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 17 and 30 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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